

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application and for the courtesies extended during the telephone conference.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1, 2, 5-11, 14, 22, 25-31, and 34-36 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 10, 19, and 28 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 10, 19, and 28.

Claim Amendments

Independent claims 1, 10, 19, and 28 have been amended to clarify the scope of the invention. Specifically, claims 1, 10, 19, and 28 have been amended to indicate that the cache recited in the claims is configured to operate as both a conventional cache (*i.e.*, a non-object cache) and an object cache. Further, the claims have been amended to include the limitation “wherein the encoded address corresponds to an address comprising an object address embedded in an unused part of a physical address range of the address.” Support for these limitations may be found, for example, in paragraphs [0022]-[0027] of the instant specification. Dependent claims have been amended accordingly in view of the amendments made to independent claims 1, 10, 19, and 28.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 103

Claims 1-9 and 19-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,446,188 (“Henderson”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,240,484 (“Witt”). Further, claims 10-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,446,188 (“Henderson”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,240,484 (“Witt”) and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0178341 (“Frank”).

In a discussion with Examiner McLean-Mayo on July 21, 2004, during which the above claim amendments were discussed, Examiner McLean-Mayo indicated that the aforementioned references (*i.e.*, Henderson, Witt, and Frank) do not teach or suggest the invention as recited in amended claims 1, 10, 19, and 28. Accordingly, the aforementioned rejections are now moot.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 16159.072001).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 7/23/04


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